

# Mason Matters!

Fall 2004

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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## A Message From Supervisor Gross

### Special Interest Articles:

- **Absentee Voting Information**
- **Tips for Fall Yard Cleanups**
- **Land Use News**
- **Help for Small Businesses is Available through SBC**

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW  
on Cable Channel 16  
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7:30 PM  
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 PM

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Welcome to the Fall 2004 edition of *Mason Matters!* Summer is over, school has started, the presidential campaigns are heating up, and it's time for the Mason District Fall Town Meeting. "Environmental Excellence" is the theme of the October 6 Town Meeting at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, and I hope you will plan to attend the panel discussion on the Fairfax County's 20-year vision plan for the environment.

Early in 2004, Board Chairman Gerry Connolly asked me to serve as chairman of the Board's Environmental Committee. The committee's agenda includes oversight of issues such as stormwater management, watershed planning and drainage divides, air and water quality, and Chesapeake Bay regulations. The committee has been very active this year and, in June, the Board of Supervisors adopted my recommendation to endorse an "Environmental Excellence" 20-year vision plan, which was drafted originally by Chairman Connolly and a group of Fairfax County residents. The plan centers on two principles: 1) conservation of our limited natural resources must be interwoven into all government decisions, and 2) we must be committed to provide the necessary resources to protect our environment.

None of the recommendations in the vision plan will happen overnight. Some legislative changes may be necessary to accomplish the vision goals, and some of the plan will need strong community support to succeed. Please come to the Mason District Town Meeting on October 6 to learn more about the vision plan and how you can help. The panel discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m.

It is a privilege to represent you and all of Mason District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on any county-related issue of importance to you.



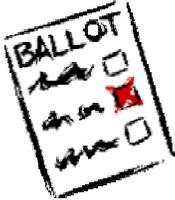
P.S. For safety's sake, please be sure to park your car with the right wheels to the curb on your neighborhood street. It's the law, and cars parked on the "wrong" side of the street can be ticketed.



## 2004 Bond Referendums

Four proposed bond referendums to improve libraries, parks, transportation, and human services are on the ballot for the November 2, 2004 election. Bonds are the principal means by which Fairfax County raises funds to address on-going needs in the county without raising taxes. For details about each bond referendum, visit the Fairfax County Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/bond](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/bond).

## Absentee Voting Information



The Electoral Board and General Registrar remind voters that they can vote absentee before Election Day, November 2, 2004. Voter registration closes at 5 pm on Monday, October 4. Voters should vote absentee if they are students away at school, will be absent on business, personal business, or vacation, have a disability or illness, or will be working at least 11 hours between 6 am and 7 pm on Election Day.

You can vote absentee in person at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale, from October 13 through October 30. Hours for voting are 3 until 8 pm, Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 9 am until 5 pm. These times may be helpful especially for college students who are home for fall break.

You also may vote absentee by mail. Call the Registrar's office at 703-222-0776 to request an application for an absentee ballot. Upon receipt of a completed application, the Registrar will send the ballot directly to you, or to your college student. The deadline to apply for a ballot by mail or fax is October 28. Completed ballots must be received in the office of the Electoral Board before 7 pm on Election Day in order to be counted. More information about voting is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb).

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## Land Use News

➤ The revitalization streetscape projects on Columbia Pike in the Bailey's Crossroads area and on John Marr Drive and Little River Turnpike in Annandale are nearing completion. The final step for each project is landscape installation. The new streetscapes create more attractive and safe pedestrian access in the business districts.



➤ Do you know what the County Comprehensive Plan recommends for your neighborhood and surrounding areas? The South County Area Plan Review Cycle, which includes Mason District, will start in September 2005. Interested persons may submit nominations to change the Comprehensive Plan during the appropriate submission period for review by staff, the community APR Task Force and Planning Commission.

For information about the APR process or if you are interested in serving on the next APR Citizen Task Force, please contact the Office of Supervisor Gross at 703-256-7717 or review the APR section of the Department of Planning and Zoning Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz).

## Fall Cleanup Tips for Disposal of Brush and Bulk Items

Now that Fall is around the corner, rakes and tarps will be out again to collect leaves. Leaf piles can take up a lot of room on the street and leave little space for anything else, such as brush or bulk items. As we prepare for fall cleanups throughout our community, here are some tips for disposal of brush and bulk items.



Be considerate of your neighbors and community by reducing the amount of time that you have your brush and bulk items out at the curb. Residents who have county trash and recycling collection are reminded to call Customer Service at 703-802-3322 to schedule for brush and bulk collection. Please schedule for a pickup prior to placing items out for collection. The county requires brush and bulk items to be no more than six feet long. Please prepare your items accordingly. **Note:** The county will **NOT** collect any debris generated from contractor work - this includes tree removal.

If you have private haulers, please contact them for information regarding their collection services. Let's keep Mason District clean!



*Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (center) celebrates with Elizabeth Clements and Don Di Spirito, the Mason District Lord and Lady Fairfax for 2004. The annual event was held at Mike's American Grill on June 7.*

## Environmental Notes

❖ Fairfax County is developing comprehensive watershed management plans for each of the county's 30 watersheds. Community involvement is a vital component of this process. If you are interested in participating in the watershed planning process for the Cameron Run Watershed, please contact Supervisor Gross at 703-256-7717.

# Help for Small Businesses is Available through SBC

By Joyce Bissonette, Chairman and Mason District Representative  
Fairfax County Small Business Commission

The Small Business Commission (SBC) is the voice of small business in Fairfax County. SBC advises the Board of Supervisors about the state of small businesses and helps promote their growth through opportunities to do business with and in the Fairfax County. The Government Vendor Comments Board is one of SBC's programs, where a business may, confidentially, discuss issues regarding the procurement process with the county. SBC works with Purchasing to resolve those issues.

Another program, the Community Business Partnership (CBP) offers loans and free counseling to individuals who wish to start or grow a small business. Their Hispanic Loan program provides loans to Hispanic business owners for equipment to start or grow their business. Contact CBP at 703-768-1440, or visit the Web site at [www.cbponline.org](http://www.cbponline.org). The Northern Virginia Women's Business Center, an initiative of the CBP, offers classes and counseling to women entrepreneurs. For more information call 703-778-9922, or visit their Web site at [www.wbcnova.org](http://www.wbcnova.org).

The SBC meets the last Monday of the month (except August and December) and all are welcome to attend. We would like to hear from you. Visit the SBC Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/osb/smsbc.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/osb/smsbc.htm) for information about meetings, events, and doing business with Fairfax County. You also may send your inquiry by e-mail at [SBC@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:SBC@fairfaxcounty.gov).



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (center) talks with Dale Gold and Susan Flinner, members of the Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation, about how residents would access a pedestrian bridge the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) proposes to install over U.S. Route 50. VDOT held its public hearing on July 29 at the Willston Multicultural Center, 6131 Willston Drive. VDOT and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation initiated the project to improve pedestrian safety between Patrick Henry Drive and the Route 7 overpass at Seven Corners. Between 1986 - 1993, there were 32 pedestrian and two bicycle crashes on U.S. Route 50 that resulted in five fatalities. Between 1997 - 1999, accidents reported were 31 with five pedestrian injuries. For information about the project, call VDOT at 703-383-2433, or visit their Web site at [www.virginiadot.org/projects/district-projects.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/district-projects.asp).

When you set your clocks back one hour on October 30 to return to standard time, don't forget to change the batteries in smoke alarms throughout your home.



## Coming Attractions

- ★ The Mason District Park Festival will be held on Saturday, September 18, from 10 am - 4 pm. at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Enjoy a fun-filled day, with children's rides, live entertainment, and lots of food. (Rain date is Sunday, September 19, 10 am - 4 pm.) For more information call 703-256-7717.
- ★ The Friends of the George Mason Regional Library will host its popular semi-annual book sale on September 30, 5 - 9 pm; October 1, 10 am - 6 pm; October 2, 10 am - 5 pm; and October 3, 12 - 5 pm. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.
- ★ The Annandale Fall Festival Parade will be held on Saturday, October 30, from 10 am - 12 pm. For more information, or to participate in the parade, contact the Annandale Chamber of Commerce at 703-256-7232.
- ★ The Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter and Shelter House will participate in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon on Saturday, November 20, 9 am at the national mall (beginning between Fourth and Seventh Streets, N.W.) in Washington, D.C. For more information, or to participate in the walk, contact the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter at 703-820-7621, ext. 218, or Shelter House at 703-538-6457.
- ★ Supervisor Penny Gross invites you to the Mason District Holiday Town Gathering on Thursday, December 2, 7:30 - 9 pm at the Mason District Governmental Center Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale.



# Community Notes

- Fire Prevention Week will be observed from October 3 - 9. Fire Stations throughout Mason District will host a Fire Prevention Open House on Saturday, October 9, 10 am - 4 pm. For more information call 703-246-3801.
- The Culmore Community Cleanup 2004 will be held on Saturday, November 6 from 9 am to 12 pm. Join your friends at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive, and help make the Culmore area of Bailey's Crossroads beautiful by participating in this successful community event. For more information call Gina Fajardo at 703-820-9039.
- The Transportation Advisory Commission would like your suggestions for the 2004 Spot Improvement Program to submit to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. If you have a suggestion for improved traffic flow or pedestrian safety, it costs less than \$100,000, and does not require acquisition of right-of-way, mail it to Supervisor Penny Gross, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia 22003, fax it at 703-354-8419, or send it by e-mail to [mason@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mason@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Mason District's Fall Town Meeting Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 PM

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Cafeteria  
3333 Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church

Join your neighbors and friends to talk about Fairfax County's Environmental Excellence plan, and how we can protect our natural resources to maintain our vibrant communities throughout Mason District.

SUPERVISOR PENELOPE A. "PENNY" GROSS  
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**Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed**